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**SENSITIVE** CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WH HUEIPOT AFF

*CIA/OCI / WHIZWH 740128*

Date: January 8, 1974  
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SUBJECT CAMBODIA--THE MILITARY SITUATION

R F Phnom Penh Embtel 1269, 271109Z Jan. SECRET. Phnom Penh Embtel 123, 26 315Z Jan. CONFIDENTIAL; Cambodia LANSREP Part I & II for Jan 27, SECRET.

Communist gunners southwest of the capital are still within range, and their shelling of the southwestern sector of the city resumed early this morning. Government operations in the vicinity of the enemy gun positions continue to make slow progress. Ground action on the other battlefronts around the capital was also generally light over the weekend. In the countryside, Route 4 is still closed west of Kompong Speu City. A Mekong River resupply convoy arrived in Phnom Penh after sustaining minor harassing attacks on January 27.

The US Embassy reports that the panic caused on Saturday in Phnom Penh as a result of the massive Communist bombardment and rumors that insurgent forces had entered the capital has subsided. Most of the estimated 10,000 families that streamed into the heart of the city from its hard-hit southwestern quarter have now returned to their homes. Although the shellings have added to the a

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of a sense of defeatism and apprehension in Phnom Penh, the embassy detects no signs of a sense of defeatism or of a general exodus. The government, meanwhile, is trying to tighten up on population control measures to prevent any future displays of panic among the city's inhabitants.